However, the Government has decided to create a buffer stock of 20 lakh tonnes of sugar for a period of one year. This will enable the sugar mills to get a subsidy amount of Rs. 412 crore from the Sugar Development Fund. In addition, an amount of Rs. 374 crores would be available from the banks to the mills on account of buffer stock. Thus, a total amount of Rs. 786 crores would be provided to the mills enabling them to clear the payment of cane price dues to the sugarcane growers. This will also help the sugar industry to mitigate the financial hardship.

Minimum support prices for rice and wheat

2266. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the minimum support prices fixed for rice and wheat;

(b) the quantum of rice and wheat procured by the FCI and its agencies during the years 1998-99, 1999-2000, 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and the period from April, 2002; and

(c) whether procurement of rice and wheat at MSP would continue without any change?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) The MSP of wheat for the current Rabi Marketing Seasons 2002-2003 was fixed at Rs. 620/- per quintal. The MSP for paddy during the Kharif Marketing Seasons (KMS) 2002-03 has been fixed at Rs. 530 per quintal for Common variety and Rs. 560 per quintal for Grade 'A' variety. In respect of levy rice delivered to the Central Pool, Statement-I showing the State-wise levy rice prices for current Kharif Marketing Season 2002-03 is enclosed. (*See* below)

(b) A Statement-II showing the total quantity of rice and wheat procured by the FCI from the year 1998-99 to 2001-02 and during 2002-03 (up to 10.12.02) is enclosed. (*See* below)

(c) Yes, Sir. The present procurement regime under price support operations at MSP would continue during the current marketing season.

Statement-I

State-wise prices of levy rice (Raw & Par-boiled) of Kharif Marketing seasons 2002-2003

(Rupees per quintal)

S. No.	State	Raw rice				Par-boiled			
		Common		Grade 'A'		Common		Grade 'A'	
		2001-2002-	2002-2003-	2001-2002-	2002-2003-	2001-2002-	2002-2003-	2001-2002-	2002-2003-
1.	Andhra Pradesh	935.10	970.30	985.00	1020.10	931.00	965.20	980.10	1006.20
2.	Assam	879.10	914.30	926.00	960.90	875.80	901.00	921.80	947.00
3.	Bihar	895.10	930.30	942.60	977.80	891.60	916.80	938.50	963.70
4.	Chandigarh	911.10	946.30	959.50	944.70	907.40	932.80	955.10	980.30
5.	Delhi	937.50	972.70	987.40	1022.60	933.40	958.60	982.60	1007.80
6.	Gujarat	859.10	894.30	904.60	939.80	856.10	881.30	901.00	926.20
7.	Haryana	939.10	974.30	989.10	1022.80	935.00	960.20	984.30	1009.50
8.	Karnataka	863.10	898.30	908.80	944.00	860.10	885.30	905.10	930.30
9.	Madhya Pradesh	827.70	907.90	919.00	954.20	869.50	895.70	915.10	940.30
10.	Maharashtra	863.10	898.60	909.20	944.40	860.50	885.70	905.60	930.70
11.	Orissa	903.10	938.30	951.10	986.30	899.50	924.70	946.80	972.00
12.	Pondicherry	855.10	890.30	900.40	935.60	852.20	877.40	896.80	922.00
13.	Punjab	939.10	974.30	989.10	1024.30	935.00	960.30	984.30	1009.50
14.	Rajasthan	915.90	951.10	964.60	999.80	912.10	937.30	960.10	985.30
15.	Uttar Pradesh	903.10	938.30	951.10	986.30	899.50	924.70	946.80	972.00
16.	West Bengal	875.10	910.30	921.50	956.70	871.90	897.10	917.60	942.80
17.	Chhattisgarh	871.10	906.30	917.30	952.50	868.00	893.10	913.50	938.70
18.	Uttaranchal	903.10	938.30	951.10	986.30	899.50	924.70	946.80	972.00

Statement-II

Quantity of rice and wheat procured by the Food Corporation of India and State agencies for the central pool during 1998-99 *to* 2001-02

(Qty. in '000 tonnes)

Year	Rice	Wheat
1998-99	11867	12652
1999-2000	17309	14144
2000-2001	19586	16357
2001-2002	21277	20630
1.4.2002 to 10.12.2002	8778	19024

Foodgrain stocks with FCI

2267. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN·
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state the stocks of rice and wheat with the FCI as on March 31, 1999, 2000, 2001 and the 31st October, 2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): The stock of rice and wheat in the Central Pool as on 31st March, 1999, 2000, 2001 and on 31st October, 2002 was as under:—

(figures in lakh tonnes)

As on	Rice	Wheat	Total
31-3-1999	121.83	96.57	218.40
31-3-2000	157.19	131.87	289.06
31-3-2001	231.91	215.04	446.95
31-10-2002	205.09	330.59	535.68

Export of bad quality rice

2268. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state: